

May we walk in love, humility, gentleness, patience and peace, which are the attributes that the Apostle Paul described as worthy of our vocation or calling. By faith, we receive these blessings and glorify You.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### TRIBUTE TO REVEREND THOMAS F. GULBRONSON

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I do not know when it was that Pastor Tom Gulbranson realized what a gift from God and a calling for God that he had. It may have been when he was serving in the United States Air Force. I do know that since serving his country in the Air Force, Pastor Tom has been a pastor for 40 years. In fact, 20 of those years he has been Pastor at the First Assembly of God Church in Alexandria, Virginia.

Now, during that period of time he has gotten all kinds of awards, and I could list all of them, and he has spoken on the 700 Club and he has become nationally known, both for his sermons and his books and his leadership. But we know him because he is a dynamic figure in our community. People gather together under his leadership and are inspired by his commitment to God and to the principles that he has dedicated his life to.

So it is a particular pleasure to have him address this body this day. I thank the majority leader for arranging it. I thank Pastor Tom for all of the many, many years that he has served our community and our country. Thank you, Tom.

### U.S.-LAOS BILATERAL RELATIONS JEOPARDIZED BY RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member comes before the body to alert his colleagues to a troubling situation in the Southeast Asian country of Laos. While the Laotian Constitution guarantees religious freedom for its citizens, in reality the government restricts freedom of religion, especially for Christian denominations. Recently, 40 Laos citizens and 5 foreigners, 3 of whom were Americans, were arrested and imprisoned. The official reason given for their arrest was "illegal assembly;" however, the real cause was related to their practice of the Christian faith.

The record of Laos in this regard is troubling. According to the State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights for 1997, the Lao government has harassed, arrested and jailed clergy members. Members of the Lao Christian community are often looked upon with distrust by their government as having connections to "foreign influences." There are also unconfirmed reports that Christians have been barred from joining the Lao People's Revolutionary Party or from securing government employment.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific, this Member sincerely hopes that the United States and Laos can develop warm and cordial relations. The potential is there. However, Mr. Speaker, this Member, through this forum, now urges the government of Laos to stop the growing trend of religious persecution within their borders.

### NO FEAR OF GOVERNMENT FOR AMERICANS

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the IRS says, do not change the law. Taxpayers should remain guilty in a civil tax case. Unbelievable.

Let me remind Members of the recent testimony of an IRS employee before the other body about IRS reform. She demanded that she be behind a screen to hide her identity and she said she must have a voice scrambler to disguise her voice. I want to quote what she said, Mr. Speaker. "I am afraid. I am afraid of retaliation by the Internal Revenue Service" that she worked for.

Beam me up, Mr. Speaker. No American should fear their government, and let me say this to Congress. There can be no true substantive reform of the Internal Revenue Service without shifting the burden of proof to the government in a civil tax case. We know it, the IRS knows it, I know it, and by God, the American people know it, and the American people demand it.

### GOVERNMENT THAT GOVERNS LEAST GOVERNS BEST

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, everyone outside of the bloated Federal bureaucracy knows that government that governs least governs best.

Never was this more apparent than on Friday when California reached a historic agreement with local Indians regarding Indian gaming in California. In fact, the tribal chairman there is quoted as saying "a turning point in tribal-state relations" has been reached.

The real significance of this agreement, however, lies more in its origin than in its content. Despite numerous attempts by Secretary Babbitt to backdoor his way into negotiations and the approval process, California has rightly asserted its sovereign status and jurisdiction. This compromise between California and sovereign Indian nations is proof that Federal intervention was not necessary, nor would it have been appropriate in this issue. California correctly and repeatedly told the Interior Department to butt out, that they do not need to be told by the Federal Government what is best for their State. Now we have proof. The Tenth Amendment works.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor H.R. 3094, a bill which will ensure that no State must sit back while the Federal Government tramples the Constitution and blatantly disregards their sovereignty.

### IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. DEGETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of women's history month to recognize the achievements of business women in my community and across the country. In my State of Colorado, women have had a dramatic impact on the economy. There are over 160,000 women-owned businesses in my State, which account for 40 percent of all firms in Colorado. Women employ over 350,000 people in Colorado and were responsible for generating \$39 billion in sales in 1996.

While many of the businesses owned by Colorado women are traditional, such as service and retail, the greatest